



# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

December 11, 1992

Mr. Kenneth E. Bressett  
Box 60145  
Colorado Springs, CO 80960-0145

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Ken and Eric:

I am digging into the 1801-1802-1803-1804 novodel silver dollars, and am studying die states. I am writing to see if either or both of you have some photographs you could lend to me for this purpose. In particular, here are some questions I have:

On the King of Siam silver dollar there is a hairline crack from the top right serif of N, sloping slightly downward through ITED, and ending just past the left edge of the second denticle past the D. My question is this: How advanced is this same die break on other Class I dollars? Are there any from perfect dies?

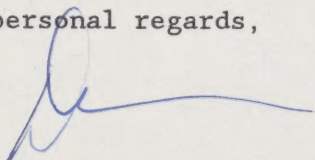
With regard to the continuation of the die break, the next state seems to be that on the 1802 Proof. Studying two specimens, I find that one shows this break stopping at about 2/3 of a denticle's width short of the leftmost wing tip feather, and another specimen of 1802 ending at the bottom of the leftmost wing tip feather. This would suggest that the 1802 was made next.

The 1803 Proof has the same break extending to the bottom of the feather, indicating this was made next in line.

Finally, the 1801 is noted with the same break as 1803, and also with a shattered reverse die (see Carter: 238), implying that the 1801 was the last struck. As both of you have mentioned in your 25th anniversary update, the 1801 novodel is from different star and letter punches. Do you know if these letter punches were used elsewhere, such as on Mint medals of the 1830s? There must have been some other purpose for them at the Mint.

If it would be possible to borrow by return Federal Express any photographs, this would be deeply appreciated and might sort out the striking order, not only of the 1801-1802-1803 (which seems to be apparent from the above commentary), but also the various known specimens of 1804.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Q. David Bowers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Q. David Bowers

QDB/kdw



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Q. David Bowers  
Bowers & Merena Galleries  
P.O. Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

December 16, 1992

Dear Dave:

Your letter of December 11, 1992 as to the use of reverse die breaks on the novodel 1801-02-03-04 dollars to determine sequence of striking is fascinating. While long ago I was so pleased to develop the sequence of obverse die cutting from the missing curl you must be excited about clues to the striking order in this undertaking of devilment through reverse die state comparison.

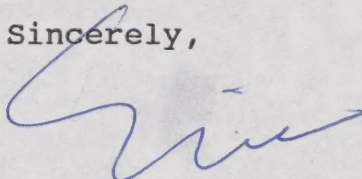
Ken may be better prepared, I believe, to get your pictures of the dollars you need. My file on the 1804 dollars is now two large packing boxes, but finding everything might take me too long.

As to different star and letter punches used on the 1801 novodel I can comment. You ask whether these punches were used elsewhere. I believe that sets of number and letter punches were customarily bought on the outside from time to time in different styles and sizes. The quantities of sets of punches purchased by the Mint during various early periods must have been large to accomodate various denomination and edge lettering coin needs as well as marking die stems, machinery parts, tool sizes, brass plate markers, etc. The hard times tokens and store cards were made with available punch sets as well as buttons, medals, etc. The Mint probably made some of their own sets as well.

NOW HEAR THIS. I think there may be a group of such punches in a gift by Stacks to the Smithsonian Institution made about 25 years ago which gift was not to be opened for 50 years. There was a lot more to this alleged gift. Lester Merkin told me about it a year or so before he died but I have had more than rumor knowledge of it for a long time before that and you and others may have knowledge of it and related facts as well. You must keep this subject matter totally confidential between us as long as I live or until we agree otherwise. I have discreetly inquired about it in rare circumstances, but never disclosed what I know. We should talk about who has knowledge of these matters and what knowledge they may have. I would not have brought this topic up at this time except for your inquiry about old punches.

I hope I have been helpful. Doesn't numismatics offer a plethora of intriguing mysteries?

Sincerely,



Eric P. Neman





# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

February 1, 1994

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, MS 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of the 24th. I appreciated receiving the latest information on the 1804 dollar. I don't know when my silver dollar book will be revised, except that it eventually will be. Probably 1995 or 1996 is a good target date. Before this is done I will be in touch to see what other suggestions you may have.

It is very pleasing to me—and I may have mentioned this to you before—that I have received more comments on "The Year in History" section than on the other sections, including pricing! Indeed, there are some people out there who like history!

I look forward to seeing my February 1994 issue of *The Numismatist*—which will probably arrive here around the 14th or 15th.

Cheers and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/mk





# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

January 31, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

It was nice talking to you when I was in Omaha—or was it in California? Anyway, I am delighted that you have been named “Numismatist of the Year,” an honor for which, it goes without saying, you are richly deserving.

I am sending along with this letter an item from a set of books I have—about the Imaum of Muscat. Apparently this fellow was quite a trader, something I don’t think was brought out in the silver dollar book, or, if it was, I don’t recall reading it (I don’t have a copy of the book on hand here). I wonder if there would be more information in government files? Perhaps the gift of a cased set of 1834 coins was more commercial than “diplomatic.” Anyway, I thought you would enjoy reading the citation if you haven’t read it already.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/mk

Enclosure: copy from book as stated.



# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

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*Your friends in the rare coin business*

April 8, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of April 2. I am sending along volumes II and IV of the books in question, both of which have multiple entries under Constable. The other two volumes had neither Constable nor Rucker entries (but I'd be happy to send the other two volumes along if you would like them for context).

The index to each volume appears in the front.

When you are finished, just send them along—I insured the pair for \$100.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/mk

Enclosure: The Old Merchants of New York Volumes II and IV



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Q. David Bowers  
Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

April 22, 1996

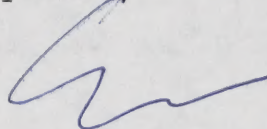
Dear Dave:

Thank you so much for sending two volumes of the Merchants of New York. As you indicated it contained nothing unusual as to Constable.

They are returned herewith along with a check for your postage.

What I really appreciate is your prompt cooperation in spite of all you are doing for numismatics and your business. You have 48 hour days.

My best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric P. Newman', written in a cursive style.

Eric P. Newman



## BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

January 10, 1997

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

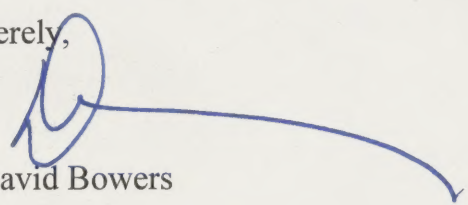
Dear Eric:

I am sending along a printout of the 1804 dollar section of the Eliasberg sale. If you have any corrections, suggestions, expansions, deletions, or anything else, please let me know. "Payment" for this would be a deluxe version of the catalogue to be issued after the sale (in addition, of course, to the one you will be receiving regularly before the sale). I will also give a credit line (using your "regular" name—I was being facetious in the printout) in the front part of the catalogue.

Working on the Eliasberg Collection has been a great deal of fun, and I have enjoyed it immensely. However, it has left very little time for me to do much else.

All good wishes to you and Evelyn for a very nice 1997.

Sincerely,



Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

Enclosure: Printout





## BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

January 22, 1997

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you so much for sending along the suggestions and corrections for the 1804 silver dollar section. I have made appropriate changes and am enclosing herewith a revised printout. I also credited the 1993 "Revised Opinion" toward the beginning of the discussion.

I am not in complete agreement with the "conspiracy theory" concerning the 1804 silver dollar, especially in view of Robert Gilmor having ordered proofs and restrikes from the Mint with the Mint apparently making these up as requested by various collectors. James Ross Snowden suggested in 1859 that the Mint was then making such pieces for collectors. Then, when complaints were received from the Boston Numismatic Society and others, a veil of secrecy seems to have enveloped the whole project.

I am not an apologist for the 1804 dollar, as it certainly doesn't make any difference to me what the situation was. However, I do feel that there is a possibility that these sets were simply made up as routine business—without any thought in 1834-1835 that there would be great numismatic implications further down the line.

Eric, if you want to glance over what I have sent, I can certainly use any other comments or updates. I hope I presented the situation clearly. I have not mentioned the Gilmor or Snowden situation, as the listing is not a forum.

All the best and thanks again.

Sincerely yours,

Q. David Bowers  
QDB/rsm  
Enclosure





ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Q. Dave Bowers  
P.O. Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

January 29, 1997

Dear Dave the Supersalesman:

Your January 22, 1997 draft of the Eliasberg 1804 dollar has been read and I do have some further comments. It has no pagination and I will use subtitles to guide you to the lines.

"The Eliasberg Specimen"

¶ 1 line 3: "openly" is not supportable. It was not clandestine. I would omit the word.

¶ 1 line 4: There is no basis for the excess of pieces over 4 to have been for "exchange". They merely made a few extra pieces.

"The Mint in the 1830s"

¶ 3 line 4: Master coins were not always proofs. You state that others were saved by Eckfeldt.

¶ 6 line 3: "no specimens were on hand" does not apply to the 1804 eagle. If a proof eagle was on hand they still would have needed 4 or more.

¶ 7 line 3: You could mention there was a law requiring U.S. coins to be struck in the year of their date and no executive order could abrogate it.

"the 1850s to the 1870s"

¶ 2 line 2: You say the original reverse die could not be found. They didn't know the difference and just used a reverse die made in 1834 which was on hand.

"Numismatic Significance"

¶ 2 line 6: add American Numismatic Society (New York) -- this is the 1914 exhibition which you later include in the registry.

"Registry of the 1804 Silver Dollars"

¶ 1 line 5: I think my name should be listed before Ken's to be consistent.

You certainly cling to the motto "Voyez tout en rose".

Your tilting friend,

Eric P. Newman





## BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

February 5, 1997

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your letter of January 29<sup>th</sup>. The catalogue is off to the printer, but I did make most of the changes, trying to fit them into the space. Aren't you pleased to know that if you had kept one of your 1913 Liberty Head nickels, we could showcase it nicely for you—and you could get a few dollars more for it. Ditto if you had an 1804 dollar!

Seriously, I have always enjoyed restrikes, fantasy pieces and the like, and feel that they lend interest to collecting. In no way do I apologize for them, or suggest that they are originals or anything else. Rather, they are relics in their own right representing what they are.

With regard to the situation at the Philadelphia Mint in the 1830s, I do not impute a sense of wrongdoing to those who made "restrikes" or new combinations of such things as the 1833-1835 half dollars, 1804 dollars, and so on. To me it seems to be the case that until as late as 1858, restrikes were made openly for collectors, and special requests could be attended to. There might have been some profit involved in this, but, if so, I haven't tracked down anything specific. Don Taxay and others go into some length into the misdeeds of Franklin Peale (discharged in 1854), but these alleged wrong doings seem to be the making of medals for his own private customers. It would be interesting to know exactly what these medals were.

So far as I can tell, the great secrecy at the Mint and the private selling of things at profits for Mint people began circa 1858 and ended with the coming of Daniel Fox to the Mint part way through 1885. It is very interesting to read the protestations, apologies, good intentions, etc., of Henry Linderman, William E. Dubois, and others, as printed in *The American Journal of Numismatics* in the 1860s and 1870s. Meanwhile, good intentions notwithstanding, almost like clockwork those



Mr. Eric P. Newman  
February 5, 1997  
Page 2

on the inside at the Mint made off-metal strikings of proof gold coins, fancy die combinations, and the like. There were also masters at giving out misinformation, such as that strikings of 1876 pattern silver dollars were made in copper, but not in silver (reference: an offering of such pieces in a Woodward sale after that date, copy not at hand as I write this letter).

An area that could be further explored would be trading away of patterns and other items stored at the Mint, in 1890 by the then-curator of the Mint Cabinet. It is recorded that at least one gold \$50 was traded away, and a copper striking put in its place. Probably two were traded—the pieces that later appeared through Haseltine and Nagy.

I also find it very curious that the 1801-1802-1803 “restrike” proof silver dollars are made on planchets of the same weight as used to strike trade dollars (420 grains), such planchets not being available until the early 1870s, which also defines the time when these pieces were first known to numismatists.

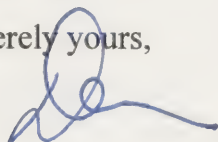
Anyway, I guess one could go on and on.

Don Taxay, Walter Breen, and John Ford often signed a “good” or “bad” label to various patterns and the like. I tend to *observe* such pieces, not *rate* them. I think observations have more permanent value and do not require rewriting at a later date. Right now, history is taking a new look at all of the wonderful victories the US Army had against the Indians in the 19<sup>th</sup> century—as one of many examples.

Eric, thank you so much for all your help and comments.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Q. David Bowers', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm





## BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

September 17, 1997

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your telephone call last week. Upon returning from a short trip this week, I found a copy of *The Numismatist* at hand, and read the "Midnight Minter's" article you referred to on the telephone. I had not seen it as of our conversation.

A quick reading of the article seems to indicate that it introduces nothing new in the way of contemporary (from the 1850s) information. The entire "Midnight Minter" situation was one dreamed up by Walter Breen long after you did your 1804 silver dollar book, and I am not sure many people ever subscribed to this theory.

With regard to recollections of Mint officials, while these are interesting to quote—such as the 1880 interview mentioned in the article—I take all such things with a great degree of skepticism. Also generally overlooked is the fact that until at least spring 1859, applicants seeking restrikes could probably obtain them on an open basis from the Mint.

To the degree that it may be of interest, I am sending along my copy of the manuscript on Augustus B. Sage which has grown considerably in recent months. All of this has been a great deal of fun to research, and I am still continuing the effort.

All good wishes

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

Enclosure: Printout



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105*

Q. David Bowers  
P.O. Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03

September 23, 1997

Dear Dave:

Your attribution of the phrase "Midnight Minter" to Walter Breen as per your letter dated September 17, 1997 enabled me to read your Flying Eagle book more carefully. On page 223 in the footnote you indicate Snow claims it. I talked to Snow and he says he created it and Walter was delighted with it and asked to use it.

Thanks for reading the Smith article and for sending me your book. My response to Pete Smith's article is in the form of a letter to the Editor and after it is published in The Numismatist you may wish to use it in your review if you think it is funny enough. I'll send it in advance if you wish. It has 19 puns.

Much ado about nothing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Eric P. Newman", written in a cursive style.

Eric P. Newman





# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

October 6, 1997

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

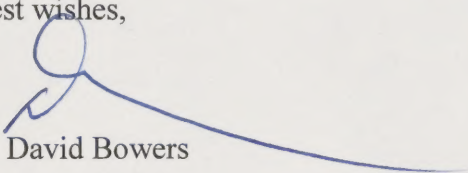
Dear Eric:

Thanks so much for your letter of September 23<sup>rd</sup> and the copy of your letter to the editor of *The Numismatist*. Well done!

With this present letter I am sending along with my compliments a set of our "Little Editions," which you might find interesting. I hope to use this venue to produce other monographs which might not otherwise see print.

Hope you, Evelyn, and your extended family are enjoying the autumn. Here in New England the tourists are just starting to arrive in significant numbers.

Best wishes,



Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

Enclosure: Set of "Little Editions"



Subj: **Emailing: 2007-05-25 Dave B to Eric P about Dr. Cohen**  
 Date: 5/25/2007 3:54:36 PM Central Daylight Time  
 From: [qdbarchive@metrocast.net](mailto:qdbarchive@metrocast.net)  
 To: [ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com), [dsundman@littletoncoin.com](mailto:dsundman@littletoncoin.com)

Great to talk with you! Have a great evening!

DAVE B

**Cohen, Joshua I.** • In the mid-19th century Dr. Cohen, of Boston, borrowed certain plates of New Hampshire colonial notes dated 1742 to 1775 that had been discovered in the State House and made reprints from them. {Pine Tree Auction Galleries sale of May 22, 1976} • Boston numismatist who began collecting early American paper money in 1828. In 1930 his collection was acquired by the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. {Eric, some of this is in your book already}

**Bell, Charles Henry** • 1867-12-05: Of Exeter, NH. Was elected as a corresponding member to the Boston Numismatic Society. • 1868-11-19: Elected to membership in the New England and Numismatic and Archaeological Society. Lived in Exeter, NH. • 1869-03-18: Elected a vice-president of the New England and Numismatic and Archaeological Society. Lived in NH. • 1870-03-17: Elected a vice-Numismatic and Archaeological Society. Lived in NH. • 1873: Exeter, NY. president of the New England and Numismatic and Archaeological Society. Lived in NH. • 1873: Exeter, NY. Recognized as a major contributor to the impending (published in 1875) work by S.S. Crosby, *The Early Coins of America*. listed in a draft of the introduction. • 1882-05-27: Letter held today by the American Antiquarian Society says he had currency "struck from original plates a few years ago." • 1884-04: Lived in Exeter, NH. Corresponding member, Boston Numismatic Society. • 1885-09-18: *W. Elliot Woodward's Seventy-Ninth Sale. Revenue and Postage Stamps, Paper Money, Etc.* Harlow E. Woodward's *Collection*. Lot 5 mentioned that Bell had caused reprints of New Hampshire colonial notes from original plates said to still be in Concord, NH. Lot 90 was a letter of transmittal of same.





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AUCTIONEERS  
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COINS • UNITED STATES • WORLD • ANCIENT  
PAPER MONEY • MEDALS • TOKENS

November 12, 2008

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric!

You can imagine my surprise and delight when I opened the package containing the fifth edition of your marvelous book. It is a light year ahead of the previous edition in terms of typography, the use of color illustrations, and more. I immediately spent part of last evening looking through it, reading from the front, and intend to complete it soon.

Thank you also for the nice comments you sent along on the enclosed sheet. I am contacting Krause Publications today to see what the rates are for wholesale quantities to offer to our clientele.

Again, congratulations on a marvelous work. Now, what are you going to do next?

All the best.

Sincerely yours,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/sn



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✓ P.O. BOX 1804 • WOLFEBORO, NH 03894 • 866/811-1804 • 603/569-0823 • FAX 603/569-3875

[www.stacks.com](http://www.stacks.com)

Dave Bowers' personal e-mail address: [adbarchive@metrocaster.net](mailto:adbarchive@metrocaster.net)





Subj: RE: Your new 5th Edition of The Early Paper Money of America  
Date: 11/15/2008 12:39:39 PM Central Standard Time  
From: qdbarchive@metrocast.net  
To: dsundman@LittletonCoin.com, ERICNUMIS@AOL.COM

Thanks, Dave S.

Eric,

A letter from me to you about the book will be signed by me at the office on Mon. Did it before I left for Boston. Last night at the C4 meeting you were mentioned multiple times in my talk.

Great book!

DAVE B

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**From:** David Sundman [mailto:dsundman@moosetrails.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2008 4:08 PM  
**To:** Eric P. Newman  
**Cc:** 'Dave Bowers'  
**Subject:** Your new 5th Edition of The Early Paper Money of America

Dear Eric-

I have just received a copy of your latest opus, the new 5th Edition of ***The Early Paper Money of America***. My first quick reaction on opening it, reading your fine introduction and skimming the pages, is ---wonderful job!

It is very exciting to see the liberal use of color photos within the listings. The new valuations by Stuart Levine are a real plus, and particularly enlightening are the items that are unpriced, such as the New Hampshire 6d of November 3, 1775, which I've never seen.

I was happy I could add a bit to the Paul Revere 6/20/1775 New Hampshire issue story with the modifications to the reprint plate information I provided.

✓ Since you went to press, I found that a NH note of April 3, 1755 that I added to my collection recently has two signers not listed in your catalog. The note is a 10s. "Crown Point" signed by D[aniel] Warner, M[esech] Weare and M[?] Avery. You do not list Daniel Warner, nor M. Avery [first name uncertain] as signers of this series, although Warner is listed as signing the April 3, 1755 redated June 1, 1756.

I know you are already hard at work on the 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Would you like more color photos of the NH images that are still in black and white, or do you have enough?

Congratulations again and thanks again for all you continue to contribute to numismatic scholarship.

All the best,  
David Sundman